

## **9.0 CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **9.1 INTRODUCTION**

This section discusses NOAA Fisheries' obligation to develop conservation recommendations under Section 7(a)(1) of the ESA, which states in part:

“All other Federal agencies shall, in consultation with and with the assistance of the Secretary, utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of this Act by carrying out programs for the conservation of endangered species and threatened species listed pursuant to section 4 of this Act.”

In this Opinion, the existence of the dams and reservoirs in the FCRPS is considered part of the Environmental Baseline. As a result, NOAA Fisheries has determined that the Action Agencies are not responsible for mitigating the effects of the existence of the dams and reservoirs *in order to avoid jeopardy* under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA.

The following conservation recommendations were developed for this Opinion.

### **9.2 SUBBASIN PLANNING INFRASTRUCTURE**

NOAA Fisheries recommends that the Action Agencies continue to facilitate the existing subbasin planning infrastructure to ensure that subbasin plans are implemented effectively and efficiently and are updated and modified at three-year intervals using the best available scientific information.

### **9.3 SNAKE RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON**

NOAA Fisheries recommends that a second artificial propagation facility designed to produce up to 150,000 sockeye salmon smolts be developed by the Action Agencies. This action would reduce the risk of losing an entire year-class of smolts due to disease or mechanical failure at one facility. The action would potentially double the number of anadromous sockeye salmon adults from the number proposed by the Action Agencies. An assessment at Sawtooth Hatchery could be undertaken to determine if the needed clean water supply and additional rearing space could be developed to accommodate this production.

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